

**STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Agenda Consideration**

**TOPIC:** Connect With Kids

**ITEM NO:** 13K

**PREPARED BY:** Andrea L. Bengier, Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Instruction and Technology

**MEETING:** May 9, 2006

**ACTION DATE:** May 9, 2006

Chris Quinn  
Executive Director of Curriculum Services

Patricia K. Wiedel, Ph. D.  
Supervisor for Professional Development

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**ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:** That the School Board approve the purchase of Connect With Kids Program for all schools (K-12) not to exceed \$150,000.

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**KEY POINTS:**

The key to a successful parent school partnership is communication. In support of the National School Board Association's focus area of communication with the community as well as an effort to provide teachers, students, families and the community with up-to-date information regarding health, wellness and character education skills SCPS identified *Connect with Kids* for our students K-12. All principals and other administrative and instructional staff reviewed the program and strongly support the tenets of the program for implementation. The program was recently selected for inclusion in the U.S. Department of Education *What Works Clearinghouse*. The program is strongly supported by several areas of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Health/Physical Education teachers will implement the Health-Wellness Collection in the middle school and high school levels and counselors will implement the Character Collection at elementary, middle school and high school levels. School-based teams of health and physical education teachers and counselors will work closely with classroom teachers to provide instruction and direction to students. The *Connect with Kids* program is a video-based curriculum featuring real children sharing their personal experiences about the challenges they face in today's world. A committee of administrators, teachers and counselors will meet to determine the plan of implementation for each level—elementary, middle school and high school.

The components of the program work synergistically to form a powerful web of support for our students. The combination of television, classroom programs with individual and group reflection, curriculum, parent outreach and website resources form a comprehensive positive youth development campaign to reach students, parents, teachers, educators and the community. One of the most unique features of the program is the partnership with WUSA in Washington, D.C. to telecast the half-hour programs during the school year regarding the instruction students receive in their classrooms or with their counselors. Parents will be notified of the airing on television and will be sent discussion tips to use with their children regarding the current topic. Corresponding teaching materials, streaming videos and parent resources will be available through the television website throughout the entire school year. SCPS will be

provided a public service announcement that will air in conjunction with the monthly telecasts. This announcement will be specific to SCPS.

The Health Collection has three series: Growing Up, Peers and Pressures and Body Language. The Character Collection focuses on the twenty-six national character skills. Focused professional development will be provided to teachers and staff throughout the implementation of the program. This professional development will enable teachers to synthesize the materials into their SOL curriculum frameworks and structure classroom environments that support positive student interaction and personal growth. Ongoing professional development will enable teachers to evaluate their effectiveness in implementing the varied components of Connect with Kids and help schools identify areas of particular student strengths and challenge. These collective student needs and teachers' capacity for using Connect with Kids effectively will inform each school's site-based professional development plan.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #1:** Provide educational excellence through instruction that establishes high expectations for all students yet recognizes the unique needs of each learner.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #2:** Integrate technology in support of all instruction.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #3:** Encourage parents and the community to increase their interest and involvement in schools.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #5:** Provide facilities that promote student learning and community support.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL #7:** Provide school environments where teachers are safe to teach and students are safe to learn.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** School Operating Fund, Federal Funds (Title I, Title IV, Title V)

**AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE:** Virginia Standards of Quality and Federal Mandates of Title I, IV, and V